

**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
UTILITY DIVISION
AGENDA NO. 98-7-27**

Date Prepared: July 23, 1998
For Work Week Commencing: July 27, 1998
Business Meeting: July 27, 1998, 10:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, placed on the state electronic bulletin board, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.mt.gov>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Dennis Crawford at (406) 444-6182 or Dan Elliott at (406) 444-6187. They may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

Work Sessions All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated (Dan).

1. MPC Docket D98.2.28 – MPC gas pilot program – Discussion, direction, action as necessary on settlement, other matters as necessary (7/28/98)
2. USWC Docket D97.5.87 – USWC 271 filing – Discuss objections to Data Requests J1-18, and –49 (the attorney-client privilege objections and OSS studies; oral argument)(7/28/98)
3. USWC Docket N98.7.158 – USWC CustomChoice Tariff Revision – Discuss and act on USWC's tariff revision to add CustomChoice to Competitive Zone Pricing in Terry and Glendive (7/28/98)

Weekly Scheduling Meeting – Will be held at 9:45 a.m. on the day of the Business Meeting

Action Items All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. BLACK HILLS POWER & LIGHT Docket D98.6.147 (Eric)

On June 30, 1998, BHP&L filed a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on July 6, 1998. Requests for hearing were due by July 27, 1998. No requests have been received. This application will increase rates by \$7,547 over the base cost of fuel approved in Docket No. 83.4.25. A default order has been drafted.

2. BIG SKY TECHNOLOGIES V. USWC – DOCKET D97.3.37 (Robin M.)

U S West, with the support of Big Sky Technologies, has moved that this complaint be dismissed because the parties have reached a mutually acceptable settlement agreement for action.

3. BIG SKY TECHNOLOGIES V. USWC – DOCKET D97.3.51 (Robin M.)

U S West, with the support of Big Sky Technologies, has moved that this complaint be dismissed because the parties have reached a mutually acceptable settlement agreement for action.

4. U S WEST COMMUNICATIONS – Docket N98.7.160 (Nina)

On July 1, 1998, U S West Communications filed Tariff Transmittal 98-AC04, "Modification of Carrier Identification Code (CIC) format", adding text changes to the Access Service Tariff. This filing is made to remove the availability of three digit CIC's and the associated dialing pattern (10XXX) from the intrastate access tariffs. Effective July 1, 1998, four digit CIC's and a 101XXXX dialing pattern are required. Both three digit and four digit CIC's and both dialing patterns were permitted during the transition period; this transition is currently reflected in the access tariffs. The FCC ruled that the transition to the new four digit CIC format be completed by June 30, 1998, which has been completed. This was a notice item on 6/20/98. Staff recommends approval.

Notice Items All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda.

1. US WEST COMMUNICATIONS - Docket N98.7.165 (Kate)

On July 22, 1998, US West filed for approval to introduce LAN Switched Services on a deregulated basis. According to the company, LSS is a local area network interconnection service which uses ATM packet switching technology to provide high-speed data connections.

2. MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORP. – Docket N98.7.163 (Nina)

On July 17, 1998, MCI Telecommunications filed Transmittal Letter No. 98-16, reflecting the following: (1) to change the name of Basic Calling Plan Option to Basic Calling Plan Option 1; (2) to introduce Basic Calling Plan Option 2 to Option A (Dial One/Direct Dial); and (3) to add the Advanced Option II for Small Business Savings Plan to Option X (Advanced Option II for Small Business).

Information Items All items identified below are for information only.

Tentative Action Items for Agenda 98-8-3

MCI TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORP. – Docket N98.7.163(Nina)

New Filings Received in Past Week

N98.7.161 – MPC – Gas Supplier License

N98.7.162 – 3 Rivers Telephone Cooperative – disperse overcharge funds

N98.7.163 – MCI – Change basic calling plan; intro basic call option; add option

N98.7.164 – Shelby Gas Association – Proposed USBP plan

N98.7.165 – USWC – Availability of Lan (LSS) on deregulated basis

N98.7.166 – USWC – Revisions to StartUp and Upgrade business packages